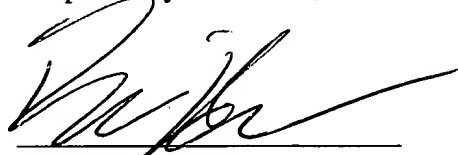


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
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**REMARKS**

Claims 3-7 and 10 have been amended to remove the multiple dependency. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian W. Hannon', written over a horizontal line.

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Date: November 20, 2002

**APPENDIX**  
**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

3. (Amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that after the hydrolysis, but before being combined with the water-soluble ferric salt, the dextran is purified by one or more membrane separations having a cut-off value suitable for holding back dextran molecules above 2,700 Da, possibly followed by further hydrolysis and one or more membrane separations having a cut-off value between 340 and 800 Da removing the smaller molecules.

4. (Amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the dextran molecules have a reducing sugar content not above 4% b.w. after the oxidation.

5. (Amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the hydrogenation is performed by means of sodium borohydride in aqueous solution.

6. (Amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the oxidation is performed by means of a hypochlorite, preferably sodium hypochlorite in basic aqueous solution.

7. (Amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in the following steps:

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preparing an aqueous solution comprising the hydrogenated and oxidized dextran and at least one water-soluble ferric salt;

adjusting the pH of said aqueous solution to a value above 10 by addition of a base;

heating the mixture to a temperature above 100°C until it turns into a black or dark brown colloidal solution and is filterable through a 0.45 µm filter;

purification and stabilization of the solution using filtration, heating and membrane separations and addition of one or more stabilizers, and

optionally drying the solution to obtain the desired iron-dextran compound as a stable powder.

10. (Amended) Iron-dextran compound produced according to ~~claims 1-8~~claim 1, characterized in that its apparent peak molecular weight (Mp) is 50.000-150.000 Da, preferable 70.000-130.000, more preferable 80.000-120.000 Da and its iron content is 15-45% b.w.